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Commemorative Louisiana Purchase Edition

The Tangi Times

SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2025 ONE DOLLAR

The Louisiana Purchase: 222 Years of Cultural History

The Impact and Importance of the Florida Parishes

By RYLEY PEREZ • Tangi Times A.C.E.

Each year, the anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase reminds us of a pivotal moment in American history. On April 30, 1803, the United States finalized the acquisition of the Louisiana Territory from France, nearly doubling the size of the young republic and setting the stage for westward expansion, economic growth, and a reshaping of the American identity.

Yet for Louisiana itself – and especially our region, known today as the Florida Parishes – the story is more nuanced, involving a unique blend of European influence, colonial rebellion, and eventual integration into the American union.

The Purchase: A Global Deal with Local Consequences

At the dawn of the 19th century, France, under Napoleon Bonaparte, had regained control of the Louisiana Territory from Spain through the secret Treaty of San Ildefonso (1800). However, Napoleon's imperial ambitions in the Americas were unraveling.

The Haitian Revolution, led by formerly enslaved people in the French colony of Saint-Domingue, had effectively ended hopes for a Caribbean empire. Facing war in Europe and the loss of a key colony, Napoleon saw the Louisiana Territory as more burden than asset.

For President Thomas Jefferson, the opportunity was golden. Access to New Orleans and the Mississippi River was vital for American commerce, especially for farmers in the Ohio and Mississippi River valleys.

Jefferson sent James Monroe to join Robert Livingston in France to try to purchase New Orleans and West Florida for as much as $10 million. If their efforts failed, they were to attempt to create a military alliance with England. In a deal that stunned Jefferson and likely the world, Jefferson's envoys secured the entire Louisiana Territory – 828,000 square miles – for $15 million, or roughly four cents an acre.

With the stroke of a pen, the United States gained land that would eventually comprise all or part of 13 states, including the whole states states of Missouri, Arkansas, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and of course, Louisiana. Additionally, the territory included most of the land in Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, and Minnesota.

See 222 YEARS, Page 4

Cool Moves for Hot Louisiana Days

By STEFANIE BROOKE • Tangi Times Community Journalist

Let's be honest, summer in Louisiana is not for the faint of heart or the crunchy of joint. Once June rolls around, the air turns into gumbo, and suddenly even walking to the mailbox feels like a full-body sweat lodge experience.

But if you're someone looking to stay active without frying your kneecaps or turning your ankles into crawfish boil casualties, don't worry. You can still get moving without melting.

First, let's talk water. Not just for drinking (though, yes, please hydrate), but for moving. Water aerobics might sound like something your great aunt does in floral swimwear, but give it a shot.

Local community centers and fitness clubs often offer water-based classes that are easy on the joints and surprisingly effective. You'll be buoyant, cool, and maybe even have a little fun – especially if there's a foam noodle involved.

If pools aren't your thing, consider morning walks under the trees before the sun has a chance to start judging us all. Louisiana's many parks and shaded trails offer just enough breeze and birdsong to make it worth getting out of bed.

Think of it as sneaky exercise disguised as a leisurely stroll. Bonus points if you bring along a friend or a grandchild who walks at a pleasantly slow, chatty pace.

Chair yoga and tai chi are also solid contenders. Both offer gentle movement, flexibility, and the kind of calm that makes you feel like you've been on a spa retreat without leaving your porch.

Check local libraries or senior centers; many host free or low-cost sessions during the summer months. YouTube also has plenty of friendly folks ready to guide you through a session in your living room.

And don't underestimate the value of "accidental exercise." Tending a garden, walking the dog in short bursts, dancing in the kitchen while you wait for the iced tea to steep – it all counts.

Summer in Louisiana doesn't have to be about sitting still and slowly sticking to your furniture. With a little creativity and a splash of whimsy, you can keep your joints moving and your spirit lifted without wilting in the heat.

June is National Soul Food Month

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The Tangi Times

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Tangi Gumbo

A little bit of everything you need to know

The Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office is warning the public about a phone scam involving the number 985-543-8123, which falsely appears as the Sheriff's Office on caller ID. Scammers are impersonating law enforcement, claiming issues with the Paycheck Protection Program or a missing loan hearing, and attempting to solicit cash from victims. TPSO stresses that it does not collect fines over the phone and urges residents not to answer or return these calls. If contacted, hang up and verify legitimacy by calling TPSO directly at 985-748-3334 or 985-748-3328, and report suspicious calls to the Criminal Investigations Division at 985-902-2088.

The Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office (TPSO) needs the public's help identifying and locating three women accused of stealing from an area discount store. On June 4, three black females entered the Dollar General store in the 43000 block of South Airport Road in the Hammond area. While one woman distracted the clerk at the checkout counter, the two other women collected several items of merchandise, including multiple dish detergents and packs of toilet paper, in a shopping cart and left the store without paying for the items. All three left the location in a silver SUV with a temporary paper license plate that comes back as not on file with the OMV. Sheriff Gerald Sticker encourages anyone with information about who these suspects are, or their whereabouts, to contact the Criminal Investigations Office at 985-345-6150. If you'd prefer to share information anonymously, you can do so through Crime Stoppers of Tangipahoa's tip line at 1-800-554-5245 or visit www.tangicrimestoppers.com and click on the P3 Tips icon or Submit A Tip! You may be eligible for a cash reward.

In honor of Southeastern Louisiana University's 100th year, the university publicly launched its biggest fundraising campaign to date last year, as it heads toward the next 100 years. Titled "Get There Together," the campaign is a $100 million initiative and is led by Honorary Chair and ABC Good Morning America Anchor Robin Roberts. The university announced today that it has exceeded its goal but will continue to raise funds throughout the centennial year to ensure the future success of its mission. The campaign is built around four pillars: Inspire Life-Changing Opportunities, Invest in Faculty, Keep Higher Education Possible, and Building a Better Workforce. "Within these core pillars, there are many initiatives that allow you to directly make a difference in the area of your choice, whether it's the new Robin Roberts Broadcast Media Center, student scholarships, academic excellence in colleges and departments, expansion of nursing excellence, the area of greatest need, faculty support, athletic training and Athletics, facilitating a vibrant campus community, or stepping in for life's unforeseen challenges," explained University President William Wainwright. "With alumni spanning the globe and our local communities coming together for this monumental campaign, there's no limit to the amazing achievements and impact the next 100 years can bring."

The $16 million Amite Solar Energy Center is now fully operational in Tangipahoa Parish, delivering clean, low-cost energy to DEMCO customers as part of a long-term partnership with NextEra Energy Resources. The 100-megawatt facility, which began commercial operations in March 2025, is owned and operated by a NextEra subsidiary, with DEMCO purchasing all energy and capacity produced under a 25-year, fixed-price agreement. DEMCO CEO Randy Pierce emphasized the cooperative's commitment to long-term energy stability and affordability, while NextEra Vice President Stuart McCurdy highlighted the project's role in creating local jobs and boosting the regional economy. The solar center supported over 200 construction jobs and is projected to contribute $16 million in tax revenue to Tangipahoa Parish over the next 30 years, enhancing local services such as education and emergency response.

Hammond Police Department was seeking the public's help in locating 15-year-old Ja-de Bagent of Hammond, La., who was last seen on June 15 around 11 p.m. leaving her residence on foot at 1107 Lavanner Brown Dr. Bagent is described as approximately 4'5" tall, weighing 100 pounds, with a dark complexion, black hair styled in puff pigtails, and dark brown eyes. She was last seen wearing all black with a pink shirt underneath. Anyone with information on her whereabouts is urged to contact the Hammond Police Department at 985-277-5701 or call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-554-5245 (JAIL), where tips may be eligible for a cash reward.

Southeastern Louisiana University's Supply Chain Management program continues to experience a significant rise in enrollment, reinforcing its status as the only dedicated supply chain degree in Southeast Louisiana. The program has experienced over a 31% growth in enrollment over the last three years. The surge in interest is driven by strong job placement rates, competitive salaries, and the growing demand for supply chain professionals in today's economy. As global supply chains become increasingly complex, businesses are actively seeking skilled professionals to manage logistics, procurement, and operations. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in logistics and supply chain-related roles is projected to grow 18% from 2022 to 2032, much faster than the average for all occupations. Additionally, the median annual starting wage for jobs was $77,520 in 2023, with top earners making over $120,000. Southeastern's program offers students hands-on experience through internships, corporate partnerships, and job opportunities with leading regional companies. Graduates are securing manufacturing, retail, healthcare, and technology positions, further emphasizing the program's value in today's competitive job market. For more information about the Supply Chain Management program, visit southeastern.edu or contact the Department of Marketing and Supply Chain Management at 985-549-2277 or marketing@southeastern.edu.

#TeamTangi, in partnership with the Regional Planning Commission, invites the public to attend an open forum meeting on Thursday, June 26, to consider a host of possibilities for the Firetower Road/LA 445 corridor between Robert and Bedico. This is a great opportunity to share your input as we prepare for continued growth in this area. Attendees will be able to view project materials, engage with the project team, and provide feedback on transportation needs and corridor improvements. Make plans to join us!

TangiAlert is an emergency notification program that will provide residents with alerts about any hazardous event. Messages will be sent to residents on their preferred contact paths – cell phone (SMS/Text), home phone, email, and more – to ensure real-time access to potentially lifesaving information. This is a free service, and you can sign up now at https://tangipahoa.org/government/emergency-preparedness/sign-up-for-alerts/

WHAT'S HAPPENING!! in Tangi

Wednesday June 18
12 PM
Summer Reading: Magnolia Wilds
Audubon Regional Library
6108 Highway 10, Greensburg

Wednesday June 18
Craft a Compass Necklace
Loranger Branch Library
19451 Hwy 40, Loranger

Thursday June 19 – Sunday June 22
9 am
Louisiana State & Us Open Turkey Calling
Southern Boyz Outdoors
11318 US-190, Hammond

Saturday June 21
11 am – 5:30 pm
Fundraiser for TPSO Det. Mike Johnson
Ponchatoula Lions Club
750 E. Pine St., Ponchatoula

Saturday June 21
2 pm
The Art of Brewing Tea
Fleur De Lis Tea Company
58265 N Cooper Rd., Amite

Saturday June 21
11 am – 2 pm
Free Range Hippie Craft Swap
Ponchatoula Library
380 N 5th St., Ponchatoula

Tuesday June 24
2 pm
Summer Reading Performer: Diamond Del's Mobile Gem Mining
Audubon Regional Library
6108 Highway 10, Greenburg

Saturday June 28
8am
Rosaryville's Nun Run
Rosaryville Retreat Center
39003 Rosaryville Rd, Ponchatoula

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Tips to Prevent Heat-related Illnesses

From the Louisiana Department of Health

Louisiana heat can be dangerous. When it is hot outside, the body eliminates excess heat through sweating and increases blood flow to the skin. Humidity makes it more difficult for the body to cool itself. Heat-related illness (HRI), or hyperthermia, occurs when the body is unable to maintain a normal temperature, resulting in heat exhaustion or life-threatening heat stroke.

Everyone is susceptible to illness during extreme heat, but some people are at greater risk such as older adults; people with chronic health conditions; people using medications that interfere with thermoregulation, fluid balance, or increased skin sensitivity to sun exposure; people using illicit substances and alcohol; outdoor workers and some indoor workers who work in a hot, non-air-conditioned environment; athletes and people who exercise outdoors; unhoused individuals and people who live in buildings or homes with no air conditioning; infants and young children; and pregnant women.

Louisiana's heat can be brutal, especially for outdoor workers spending all day in the sun. Staying hydrated and taking breaks in the shade are essential to staying safe on the job. The heat dashboard includes guidance for employers in the full heat toolkit on how to keep employees safe during extreme heat.

To protect yourself and others from heat-related illness, stay hydrated. Drink plenty of water, even if you don't feel thirsty. If you are sweating a lot, drink electrolyte-containing liquids, such as sports drinks, to replace salts and minerals. Avoid alcohol, caffeine, and sugary drinks.

Stay informed. Keep an eye on weather forecasts and heat advisories so you know when extreme heat is coming and how long it may last.

Stay in air-conditioned spaces. If your home is not air-conditioned, visit a cooling center, library, or shopping mall. During extreme heat events, seek cooling centers in your community.

Reach out. Contact the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) if you need help with home-energy expenses, such as bills, cooling equipment, or repairs.

Keep your home cool. Wait until evening to use hot appliances such as the oven, dryer, or iron. Wash hot-water loads of laundry at night. Close blinds and curtains during the day. Use window reflectors designed to reflect heat outside.

Dress appropriately. Wear sunscreen, a wide-brimmed hat, and sunglasses outside. Wear loose-fitting, lightweight, and light-colored clothing to reflect heat and sunlight.

Avoid outdoor activities during the hottest part of the day, typically 10am to 4pm.

Never leave children or pets alone in vehicles.

Check your meds. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist to see if any of your medications affect your body's ability to regulate temperature.

Look after each other. Check in on family, friends, and neighbors, particularly older adults, those without air conditioning, and those who spend most of their time alone. If you work outside, water, rest, and shade are important.

Drink water every 15 minutes. Have electrolyte drinks on hand in addition to water when performing strenuous, sweat-producing tasks for extended periods.

Take frequent rest breaks that are long enough to recover from the heat and for the heart rate to slow (at least 5 minutes). Do not wait until symptoms occur to rest.

Seek a shady or cool location to take breaks and recover from the heat. If vehicles are used as a rest area, park the vehicles in the shade and cool them with air conditioning before use.

Visit ldh.la.gov/heat for additional information about heat-related illnesses in Louisiana, along with signs, symptoms, and guidance.

Shrimp Imports Hurt Louisiana and Threaten Americans' Health

From Senator John Kennedy

"The continued importation of foreign shrimp from countries with lax environmental and health regulations, particularly those sourced from India, presents serious health risks to American consumers."

Sen. John Kennedy (R-La.) today sent a letter to Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Robert F. Kennedy Jr. urging his department to work with its partners to prevent unsafe foreign shrimp from reaching American consumers.

While U.S. shrimp manufacturers comply with bans on antibiotic use and numerous environmental regulations, not all shrimp producers in countries like India, Ecuador, Indonesia, and Vietnam abide by the same standards. A recent decline in transparency among members of the foreign shrimp industry has raised further concerns.

"I write to express my concern regarding the ongoing public health risk posed by the importation of farmed shrimp into the United States. In 2021, the United States imported approximately 1.9 billion pounds of shrimp, accounting for over 90% of the nation's consumption," Kennedy began the letter.

"A growing body of academic research and investigative reporting indicate that imported shrimp frequently contain illicit antibiotics and harbor antimicrobial-resistant bacteria. One of the most prevalent risks associated with warm-water shrimp aquaculture is antibiotic use, which poses significant health threats related to potential parasitic infection along with disease outbreaks," the senator explained.

"Fortunately, President Trump is taking action. On April 17, 2025, President Trump issued an Executive Order titled Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness, which strengthens the domestic seafood industry and addresses the need to eliminate unsafe imports, promote ethical seafood sourcing, and level the playing field for domestic seafood producers," Kennedy added.

"In light of the President's executive order and the ongoing health risks posed by imported seafood, I urge the Department of Health and Human Services to collaborate with the U.S. Trade Representative, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and other relevant agencies to strengthen inspection capabilities and stop this harmful seafood from being sold domestically," he wrote.

Background:

In Dec. 2023, Kennedy introduced a bill to bolster the Seafood Import Monitoring Program's ability to audit foreign seafood imports that its producers misrepresent. Senate Democrats blocked Kennedy's bill.

In May 2024, Kennedy questioned then-Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo on safety risks associated with imported shrimp and crawfish, drawing attention to foreign countries that subsidize their seafood industries and engage in false advertising.

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Keeping Kids Busy During the Summer

From Crime Stoppers of Tangipahoa

Summer break is an exciting time for students, but for parents, it can come with a new set of challenges – especially when it comes to keeping kids engaged and out of trouble. While a little boredom can inspire creativity, too much of it can lead to mischief. That's why Crime Stoppers of Tangipahoa is offering a few simple, safe, and productive ideas to help keep kids busy and out of harm's way this summer.

For the young entrepreneurs, summer is a perfect time to hustle! Grab a bucket and some soap for a neighborhood car wash. Consider offering lawn care, small painting projects, or even pressure washing services. Many parents are in need of babysitters – this could be a great opportunity for responsible teens to earn extra money while helping others.

When the temperature rises, a classic lemonade stand is always a hit. It's a fun and refreshing way to beat the heat while learning a bit about business.

If your teens are old enough to drive, suggest running errands for elderly neighbors or others who may need assistance. Volunteering is also a wonderful option – local food banks, libraries, and animal shelters are often in need of extra hands during the summer months.

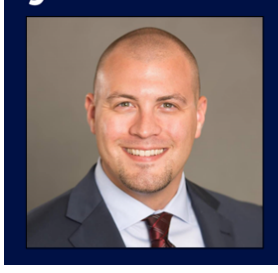
For something a little different, start a neighborhood garden and invite local kids to join in. It's a great way to learn responsibility, teamwork, and sustainability. And don't forget to explore community resources like public pools and Vacation Bible Schools – many churches host them throughout the summer and welcome participants with open arms.

Finally, don't overlook the value of helping out at home. Whether it's organizing the garage, helping prepare meals, or watching younger siblings, there's always something useful to do around the house.

These are just a few ideas to help students stay active, responsible, and out of trouble over the summer break. Here's to a safe, productive, and fun-filled summer!

—Crime Stoppers of Tangipahoa

coverage for wherever you call home



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Youth Service and Back to School Bash

Sunday, June 29, 2025
Hope In Salvation
1050 S.E. Railroad Avenue
Ponchatoula, LA 70454

The Youth Service is at 10:00am with a few giveaways during the service. The person whose name is drawn must be present in the service.

The Back to School Bash is from 1:00-4:00pm. We will give away backpacks containing school supplies during the Bash on a first come, first served basis until items are gone.

We also have free food and games during the event.

This event should be a fun time for all!

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Article 7, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B) that a public hearing of Recreation District No. 3 Tangipahoa Parish will be held at Amite City Hall, 212 East Oak Street, Amite, Louisiana on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 6:05 p.m. to consider levying additional or increased millage rates without further voter approval or adopting the adjusted millage rates after reassessment and rolling forward to rates not to exceed the prior year's maximum. The estimated amount of tax revenues collected in the next year from the increased millage is $567,324.30, and the amount of increase in taxes attributable to the millage increase is $22,314.30.

Dates Run: June 20 and 21, 2025. Cost of notice: $47.25

222 YEARS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Florida Parishes: Not Included – At First

Despite the sweeping scope of the Louisiana Purchase, the region now known as the Florida Parishes – located in southeastern Louisiana between the Mississippi River and the Pearl River, north of Lake Pontchartrain – was not technically part of the deal. These parishes, including Tangipahoa, Livingston, St. Helena, as well as St. Tammany, Washington, East Feliciana, West Feliciana and East Baton Rouge, were at the time under Spanish control as part of West Florida, a region Britain had acquired in the 18th century and which later passed to Spain.

The distinction is crucial: while much of Louisiana transitioned from French to American hands smoothly after the purchase, the Florida Parishes remained in Spanish possession, leading to confusion, conflict, and ultimately rebellion.

The West Florida Rebellion and the Lone Star Flag

In 1810, frustrated by Spanish rule and inspired by growing American nationalism, English-speaking settlers in the Florida Parishes staged the West Florida Rebellion. On September 23 of that year, they seized the Spanish fort at Baton Rouge and declared the short-lived Republic of West Florida, raising a single, white-starred blue flag – an emblem some historians believe may have influenced later designs like the Texas "Lone Star" flag.

The West Florida Republic lasted only 74 days. By December, U.S. troops moved in, claiming the territory as part of the Louisiana Purchase, despite the legal gray area. President James Madison issued a proclamation annexing the territory, and within months, the Florida Parishes were integrated into the Orleans Territory – soon to become the state of Louisiana in 1812.

A Cultural Tapestry Unlike Any Other

The inclusion of the Florida Parishes added further complexity to Louisiana's already diverse cultural landscape. Originally settled by the British, these parishes saw early waves of English planters, military personnel, and later, American frontiersmen. This contrasted with the French, Spanish, and African influences dominating much of southern Louisiana.

Louisiana has been governed under ten different flags, and nowhere is this international legacy more evident than in the Florida Parishes. From British West Florida to the Spanish colonial system, to the brief independence of the West Florida Republic, and finally to American statehood, the region embodies the layered history of shifting loyalties and cultural fusion.

The presence of multiple legal systems also reflects these influences. While the rest of the U.S. follows English common law, Louisiana's legal code – particularly in civil matters – is based on a blend of French and Spanish legal traditions, a legacy that further distinguishes the state.

Strategic and Economic Importance

In both symbolic and practical terms, the Louisiana Purchase was about more than land—it was about control. The Mississippi River, the port of New Orleans, and the surrounding delta were vital trade arteries. Jefferson understood that whoever controlled New Orleans controlled the economic future of the American Midwest.

Though not originally part of the purchase, the Florida Parishes also offered strategic value. With access to the Gulf of Mexico, inland waterways, and rich agricultural land, they played a crucial role in regional development. Their annexation completed a strategic puzzle that ensured American dominance from the Atlantic to the Mississippi.

Legacy of the Purchase

The Louisiana Purchase remains one of the greatest real estate deals in history—not just for the land gained, but for the opportunities it unlocked. It signaled the rise of the United States as a continental power, encouraged the spread of democracy and capitalism, and set in motion cultural and political shifts still felt today.

In Louisiana, the effects were even more immediate. The state became a crossroads of American expansion and a laboratory for cultural fusion. Cajun and Creole traditions, plantation economies, and eventually oil and gas industries would flourish in this unique blend of old-world heritage and new-world ambition.

Meanwhile, the Florida Parishes, born of rebellion and diplomacy, remain a proud and distinct part of Louisiana. Their history serves as a reminder that American expansion was not always a straightforward process—and that liberty, in many cases, had to be claimed before it could be granted.

Louisiana as We Know It

As we mark another anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase, we celebrate more than a land deal. We honor a vision that reshaped a nation and the people who gave voice to that transformation—including the bold citizens of the Florida Parishes, whose brief republic helped define Louisiana's boundaries and character.

From its legal traditions to its cultural vibrancy, Louisiana is a product of convergence—of ideas, peoples, and empires. And at the heart of that story is the Louisiana Purchase, a defining moment not just in American history, but in the identity of Louisiana itself.

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The Tangi Times Music Notes

ROUX & BREW Downtown Ponchatoula

LA CARRETA FRESH·FUN·FESTIVE LOUISIANA Ponchatoula

Feature Shows

Wednesday, June 18	Lance Villafarra (5-8:30 pm)	
Thursday, June 19	Cross Threaded Band (5:30-9 pm)	TJ Barends (6-9 pm)
Friday, June 20	Mia Dixon (6-9:30 pm)	Sylas Faust (6-9 pm)
Saturday, June 21	Trey Morgan (10-1:30) Pat Cataina (2-5:30 pm) Beach Bums (6-9:30 pm)	Sylas Faust (6-9 pm)

Streetside Market Hammond
Friday, 6/20 @ 6pm
Frenier Landing Laplace
Sunday, 6/21 @ 6:30pm

Schedules are Subject to Change